

June 24, 2011

To: Executive Board

Subject: **Request to Issue RFP – Electric Buses**

Recommendations

1. Rescind previous Executive Board direction to execute an option with Proterra for nine (9) electric buses; and
2. Authorize issuance of an RFP for the purchase of nine (9) electric buses.

Analysis

On February 19, 2009, the Executive Board authorized the Executive Director to issue a notice requesting expressions of interest from bus manufacturers relative to their capabilities to produce a 35-foot electric bus.

On April 24, 2009, the Foothill Transit Executive Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Proterra LLC for the procurement of three (3) battery powered electric buses and wayside fast charging equipment and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate final terms and conditions and execute a contract with Proterra LLC. That contract included an option to purchase nine (9) additional buses.

In September of 2010 those three buses began regular limited service on Line 291 while awaiting completion of the in-route charging station. The charging station was substantially completed in February of 2011 and in-route fast-charge service began.

In order to advance the deployment of the electric bus program, Foothill Transit applied for a grant under the Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER II) program. On January 31, 2011, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced that Foothill Transit's application for a \$10.17 million TIGGER II grant for the electrification of Line 291 had been approved.

At the Executive Board Workshop held on February 17, 2011, the Board became aware of the potential imminent action by the US Congress to repeal funding awarded under the TIGGER program. The Board discussed ways to secure the funding for this project. One potential option was to exercise the option order for the nine option buses. This would allow the grant for these funds to be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration for approval.

The potential loss of the TIGGER II funding became known subsequent to the posting of the agenda for the Executive Board Workshop. In light of this, the Executive Board took action to add an item to the agenda for the day. In a subsequent vote, the Board authorized the Executive Director to exercise the option for nine buses with Proterra.

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This action was reaffirmed at the March 25, 2011 meeting of the Foothill Transit Executive Board.

Subsequent to this action the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) advised Foothill Transit that it would be more appropriate to issue a competitive procurement for the nine electric buses.

The procurement of these nine buses will allow the complete electrification of Line 291 operating between LaVerne and Pomona, including FTA approved spare vehicles.

Budget Impact

Foothill Transit will utilize the \$10.17 million in TIGGER II grant funding, and any additional required funding is available in the approved FY 2011 capital budget and the adopted FY 2012 Business Plan.

Sincerely,



George Karbowski
Director of Operations and Maintenance



Doran J. Barnes
Executive Director